

**MINUTES OF THE HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF GRANTING
PAROLE/INTERIM BAIL TO PRISONERS OF PRISONS IN THE STATE OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**


In pursuance of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1/2020 in Re Contagion of Covid-19 Virus in Prisons, the High Powered Committee (HPC) held its Second Meet via Video Conference on 18.06.2021 at 04:00 PM.

The Committee has gone through the details of prisoners (Convicts/UTPs), furnished by the Jail Authority and also the suggestions of the Under Trial Committees to consider their release on parole or interim bail.

The Committee, after threadbare discussion, on the issues of prevailing situation under Covid-19 pandemic and population in the respective Jails, Sub-Jails and other factors such as medical facilities, the High Powered Committee made the following resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS

Release of convict on Parole and UTP on Interim Bail:

1. The High Powered Committee held virtual meeting today to consider the list of UTPs and convicts, suggested by UTRC, to be released on bail and parole, as per guideline/SOP of NALSA. After perusing the same, the Committee resolved not to approve the suggestions with regard to convicts on parole as the offences are severe in nature and conviction is more than 7 (seven) years. However, UTPs as suggested by UTR Committee should be released on interim bail. Further IG, Prisons informed that after the first HPC sitting and recommendation dated 09.06.2021, the only convict Sri Moi Nyori, who was granted parole last year for 90 days, has been allowed to avail further 90 (ninety) days' parole w.e.f 15.06.21 to 12.09.2021 after observing all formalities.
2. As regards interim bail of the UTPs concerned, as per the suggestions of UTRC, bail applications are to be moved by Legal Aid Counsels as per the guidelines of NALSA for release on interim Bail or on PR Bond, without further delay. And the Learned Court shall dispose those applications immediately. The concerned Secretary, DLSA will take all necessary steps to engage Legal Aid Counsel, 
3. After such release of the UTPs from prison, the Prison Authority will coordinate with District Administration for dropping the prisoners to their respective home by providing transportation, as per necessity.
4. Also the IG, Prisons to ensure to expedite the steps of Remission of convict by coordinating with the concerned Authority, so that the convicts who are eligible to get remission can get relief immediately.

5. The HPC also resolved to direct all the DLSAs to increase the frequency of the meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee to fortnightly basis for a period of 6 (six) months from now and to submit their report to APSI SA. The Member Secretary will lay down the same before the HPC on the next meeting to be held in next month.

Information on Prison Occupancy:

6. As per the chart submitted by IG, Prisons, the total occupancy of prisoners is 467, against sanctioned capacity of 510, as on 07.06.2021. It appears that out of 2 (two) District Jails and 7 (seven) Sub Jails, there are reports of overcrowding at about 5 jails. At Jolly, out of male prison sanctioned capacity of 165, there is occupancy of 192 male jail inmates, thereby there is an excess of 27 jail inmates. Likewise in Sub Jail, Pasighat out of sanctioned capacity for male inmates of 50 numbers, there is occupancy of 72, thereby excess of 22 numbers. In Sub Jail, Khonsa out of sanctioned capacity for male inmates of 32 numbers, there is occupancy of 59, thereby excess of 27 numbers. In Sub Jail, Longding out of sanctioned capacity for male inmates of 20 numbers, there is occupancy of 44, thereby excess of 24 numbers. In Sub Jail, Changlang out of sanctioned capacity for male inmates of 20 numbers, there is occupancy of 27, thereby excess of 7 numbers. Thereby in total in whole of Arunachal Jails, there is excess of 107 jail inmates. Whereas in some other sub jails, occupancy is very few against sanctioned capacity.

Reducing Prison Overcrowding:

7. From perusal of the occupancy chart, it is observed that the Prison Occupancy is less at District Jail, Tezu in comparison to its capacity. IG, Prisons apprised that the Internal Wall is to be constructed at District Jail, Tezu and other facilities are also to be put in place. The HPC directs the Prison Authorities of the State to explore the feasibility of inter-jail transfer/shifting of the prisoners from the overcrowded jails to other jails in consultation with the Deputy Commissioners and the District and Sessions Judges in order to reduce the occupancy rate in all the Jails.

General information on Medical Staffs and facilities at Jails:

8. From the information with regard to medical facilities as placed by IG, Prisons, it is observed that apart from Jolly District Jail, there is no any Medical Officer posted in other Jails. In view of the prevailing COVID-19 situation, the HPC hereby directs the Health Department to ensure deputing Medical Officers to visit the jails every alternative day on roster basis. And the required number of deputed doctors should be as per jail population. Further the Health Department will take urgent steps for appointing/ posting regular Medical Officer in all the District Jails and Sub Jails as per the requirements.

Establishment of Full-Fledged Laboratories in the two District Jails:

9. The HPC observed that there is no full fledged laboratory facility at the two District Jails at Julliy and Tezu. Therefore HPC resolves to direct the Health Department to establish full fledged laboratory facility at these District Jails in order to address the medical needs of the jail inmates. And the Principal Secretary (Home) will pursue the matter, so that it is implemented at earliest.

Creation of Manpower for Sub-Jails on Priority:

10. As per report furnished, there is no sanctioned staff to man the seven sub-jails at Longding, Khonsa, Changlang, Pasighat, Aalo, Yingkiong and Koloriang and these sub jails are manned by drawing staffs from the DC's Establishment and the office of SP. There are no sanctioned posts for these sub-jails like in case of the two District Jails at Julliy and Tezu. And it is a matter of serious concern that 7 Sub Jails are allowed to function in casual manner. Further, additional manpower also needs to be created for the existing two District Jails at Julliy and Tezu in order to manage these jails properly. Therefore, the HPC directs the State Government (through concerned Departments) to create sufficient manpower required for smooth and proper functioning of these Sub-Jails and District Jails. IG, Prisons shall pursue the matter with the concerned Departments to expedite the matter for creation of manpower so that appointment of staffs can be made for the Jails. The State has to shoulder such responsibility with utmost concern to prevent any untoward incident in the jail.

Covid-19 Testing:

11. As per report save and except in certain Jails, no testing is carried out in some of the Jails. The HPC directed the Health Authorities of the State to undertake regular COVID-19 testing of all the prisoners and jail staffs of all the jails in the State including the security personnel deployed for security duties at the jails. And the IG, Prison to take persuasive step.

Covid-19 Vaccination of Prisoners and Staffs:

12. It is found that only certain population of prisoners is vaccinated but in most of the Jails, no vaccination drive has been taken place. The HPC resolved and directed the Health Authorities of the State to vaccinate all the prisoners and jail staffs of all the jails in the State including the security personnel deployed for security duties at the jails after such testing is carried out.

Uploading of Datas in the Website:

13. The HPC resolved and directs that Prison Occupancy Data and resolutions of the High Powered Committee should be uploaded in the Website of the SLISA, State Government and HCLSC in

order to enable effective dissemination of information. The Member Secretary, APSLSA, will ensure the same.

Isolation and Quarantine Facilities:


14. It has been apprised that as on 17/06/2021, there were 10 (ten) number of COVID-19 infected inmates in District Jail, who have been lodged in temporary isolation facility within the prison complex. Further temporary arrangement has also been made to put the COVID-19 suspected cases in separate isolation facility. In Sub-Jails too separate cell has been identified to house the suspected cases. It was also apprised that the new inmates are lodged only after Rapid Antigen Tests are done from the clinic and hospitals. HPC directs the Prison Authority and the Health Department to continue efforts in identifying infected inmates and to make necessary arrangements as per their needs.

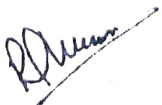
15. For proper monitoring of COVID-19 in Prisons, the IG, Prisons shall direct all the Jail Authorities to submit the information in the Reporting Format prescribed by CHRI on monthly basis for submission to the office of APSLSA with respect to prison occupancy, general information on medical staffs and facilities etc. And the compiled report shall be submitted to NALSA on monthly basis by APSLSA. The Member Secretary, APSLSA will place the matter before the HPC for necessary consideration and direction.

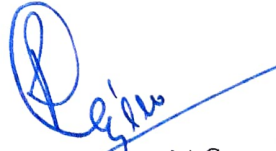
16. A Monitoring Committee with Principal Secretary (Home) as Chairperson & Member Secretary, APSLA, Itanagar and I.G, Prisons as Members is hereby constituted to look into the compliance of the direction given by the HPC. Whenever required the Monitoring Committee shall look into the matter of Prison Occupancy, Jail requirements, UTR Committee meet, release of UTPS, testing and vaccination, etc. and pass necessary directions to the Jail Authorities and the DLSAs.

17. Let the next meeting of HPC be fixed on 17.07.2021, at 04:00 pm, with relevant Jail data and report.

Meeting is concluded with thanks from the Chair.


CN Longphai, IAS,
Inspector General of Prisons
Arunachal Pradesh,
Itanagar


(JUSTICE R.K. PHUKAN)
Executive Chairperson,
Arunachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority,
Itanagar


Rajeev Verma, IAS
Principal Secretary (Home)
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh,
Itanagar